



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater
National Forest

903 3rd St.
Kamiah, ID 83536
208-588-3400

Categorical Exclusion Water Resources Specialist Report

Project Name: Magruder Road Hazard Tree Removal

Date Submitted to Project File: August 1, 2017

Project Sponsor (Name/Phone/E-mail): Andrew Lane, 983-4017, ablane@fs.fed.us

Project Description

Ranger District/Zone: Red River Ranger District

SubBasin/Subwatershed: Lower Selway, Middle Salmon-Chamberlain/Headwaters Meadow Creek, Lower Bargamin Creek

*See Project Proposal Description document in the Project File

Scope

The purpose of this report is to evaluate whether the proposed project has potential “significant and adverse impacts” on water resources, and therefore whether the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion.

Purpose & Need, Proposed Action, & Design Criteria

The purpose and need is to remove the hazard trees from the Magruder road area on approximately 186 acres. There are many snags in the area, posing hazards to FS and private travelers of the 468 road. The road is also a groomed snowmobile route, so eliminating the hazard trees would provide a benefit for summer and winter users. Snags would be cut and skidded to landings within 200 feet of the roadway. No temp roads would be necessary. No activity would occur in wilderness, roadless, or riparian areas. Ground disturbance will be associated with felling, skidding, loading, and log hauling.

Loggers will cut dead standing trees with chainsaws within 150 feet of FS road 468. Felled trees will be skidded, bucked and hauled using feller bunchers, skidders, loaders, and logging trucks. Landing piles will be constructed and burned by fire crews post-harvest. The timber sale will be advertised and sold.

Work could start in the summer of 2017 and work will take one year to complete.

Affected Area

Impacts to water resources are addressed at the watershed, subwatershed, and reach scale. Water resources include live water (streams, rivers, standing water), subsurface waters (i.e. wetlands, floodplains, groundwater), and springs/seeps.

Potential Impact Analysis

The following actions were completed to assess the impact on surface and groundwater resources:

- Extraordinary Circumstances review
- Federal and State compliance review
- Design Criteria review
- Geospatial analysis > RCHA buffer and activity proximity





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Extraordinary Circumstances Review

PROTECTED RESOURCE	PRESENT?		ADVERSE EFFECT?	
Floodplain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Wetland(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Municipal Watershed(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA

*Authority: FSH 1909.15 Chapter 30 (USDA, 2007), Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplains) and 11990 (Wetlands)

Riparian Conservation Habitat Areas (RHCA) were implemented on Cache Creek and Fourmile Creek. The proposed logging will not take place in these zones resulting in compliance with PACFISH-INFISH.

No ground disturbance that would potentially effect groundwater systems are proposed in this project.

Clean Water Act: Sections 303(d) TMDLs and 305(b) Impaired Waters

	PRESENT?		ADVERSE EFFECT?	
303(d)-Listed Stream(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Ground disturbance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Pollutant/issue to exceed temperature standards?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Further impairment of the watershed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA

No ground disturbance that would potentially effect groundwater systems and/or increase sediment/water yields into surface waters are proposed in this project.

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act (1960)

	PRESENT?		ADVERSE EFFECT?	
Wild & Scenic River	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Other Beneficial Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA
Water Rights violations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No/NA

Fourmile Creek has no other beneficial uses. Cache Creek is fully supporting of cold water aquatic life and secondary contact recreation.

Federal and Forest Plan Consistency

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest is under Forest Plan Revision, and still functioning under separate Forest Plans. The Clearwater National Forest Plan (USDA, 1987b) objective for water quality is to meet or exceed "current Idaho Water Quality Standards" and to accomplish such objective through use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) (IDAPA Chapter 58 ;FSM 2532, 1992; FS990a, 2012). BMPs include Soil and Water Conservation Practices (FSH 2509.22) to control, mitigate, and monitor non-point source pollution.

The proposed project is consistent with the federal and state standards, goals, and objectives for water resources.

Direct and Indirect Effects



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Considering the proposed project's Design Criteria and use of BMPs regarding water quality, no direct or indirect significant, adverse effects to floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are proposed or expected for this project. Hazardous tree removal is expected to have negligible effects on water resources.

Cumulative Effects

The proposed action and design criteria present no potential for non-point or point sources of pollution/contamination to water resources. The proposed project would not create any new adverse effects to the resources of concern listed above, therefore, there would be no cumulative adverse impacts.

Conclusion

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

<i>/S/ Jordan Mayer, Forest Aquatic Technician</i>	<i>August 1, 2017</i>
NAME, JOB TITLE	DATE



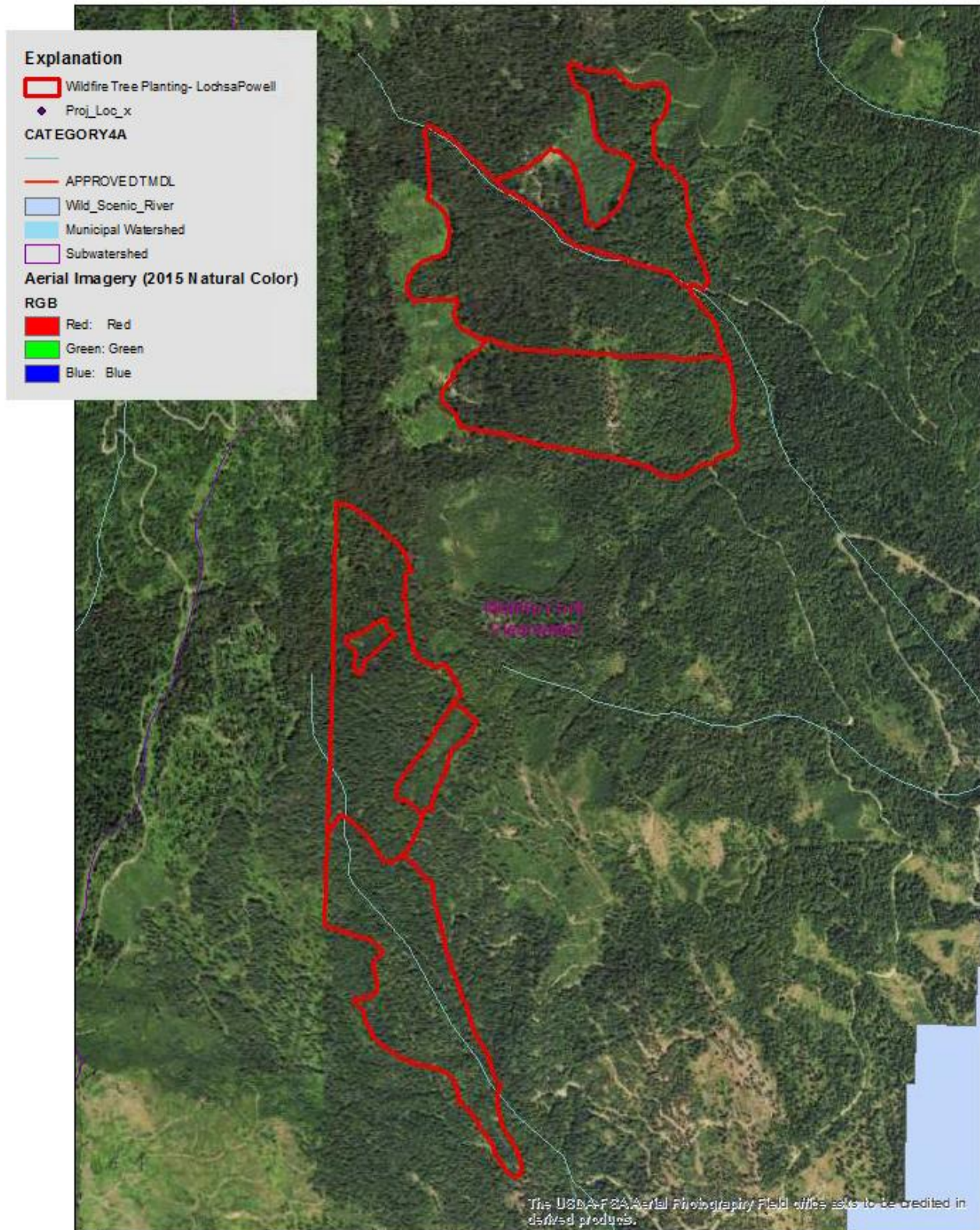


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